

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIE-00 PM-03 DODE-00

L-02 EUR-10 IO-03 RSR-01 PRS-01 /069 W

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O 150245 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3191

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10737

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-13 JUNE 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA JUNE 13
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0194

1. MR 3 IS CURRENTLY IN LULL BEFORE ANTICIPATED PRE- CEASE- FIRE
STORM. LEVEL OF INCIDENTS REPORTED DURING 24 HOURS ENDING
0800 JUNE 13 DROPPED TO 19, INCLUDING SEVEN ATTACKS BY FIRE,
NINE GROUND CONTACTS, AND THREE MINE/ BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS.
RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AT FOUR KILLED AND 14 WOUNDED
(INCLUDING THREE CIVILIANS WOUNDED BY MINES), WHILE KNOWN
COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE 12 KILLED, A QUANTITY OF DOCUMENTS AND
EQUIPMENT DESTROYED, AND ONE RALLIER (A SOUTHERN VC). AT
TONLE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP, COMMUNIST LOUDSPEAKERS REPEATED
WARNINGS THAT CAMP WOULD BE OVERRUN IF DEFENDERS DID NOT WITH-
DRAW, BUT COMMUNISTS FIRED ONLY 22 B-40 ROUNDS AT TONLE
CHAM DURING THE PERIOD, FEWEST SINCE BASE CAME UNDER BOMBARDMENT
IN FEBRUARY. ELSEWHERE THERE WERE LIGHT HARRASSING ATTACKS
BY FIRE AND BRIEF BUT OCCASIONALLY SHARP GROUND CONTACTS ON
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SQUAD AND RECON TEAM LEVEL IN HAU NGHIA, LONG AN, LONG KHANH, AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES. SITUATION ALONG INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 1- A IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE IS COVERED IN PARA 3 BELOW.

2. AN NVA SOLDIER WHO RALLIED IN BEN CAT DISTRICT, BINH DUONG, IN EARLY JUNE (PHAM DAI LONG OF 6 TH COMPANY , 8 TH BATTALION, 209 TH REGIMENT OF 7 TH NVA DIVISION) SAYS THE 209 TH' S MISSION IS TO INTERDICT AND HOLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13 BETWEEN XT788520 AND XT786556 (GENERALLY ALONG BINH DUONG - BINH LONG BORDER) AT GIVEN SIGNAL RELATED TO PARIS TALKS. OBJECTIVE IS TO DRAW DE FACTO DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN ZONES OF CONTROL OF GVN AND VC/ NVA.

3. MR 3 SOURCE TOLD CONGEN THAT PRESIDENT THIEU JUNE 12 ORDERED MR 3 CG LTG MINH TO ABANDON ATTEMPT TO CLEAR NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13 BETWEEN LAI KHE AND AN LOC, AND REDEPLOY 5 TH ARVN INFANTRY DIVISION AND RANGERS INVOLVED IN OPERATION TO PREVIOUS, LARGELY DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. 18 TH ARVN INFANTRY DIVISION WHICH HAD SPREAD OVER TO BINH DUONG TO FILL IN BEHIND 5 TH, HAS NOW BEEN RETURNED TO FORMER AO IN EASTERN PART OF MR, EXCEPT THAT SOME ELEMENTS REMAIN TO " TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF" IN PHU HOA DISTRICT, AND TO ASSIST IN ATTEMPT TO CLEAR INTERPROVINCIAL BETWEEN PHU CUONG AND PHU GIAO, ROUTE 1- A. THIEU REPORTEDLY TOLD MINH THAT 1 AA WAS ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THAN 13; LATTER COULD BE CONSIDERED " CONTESTED" (SIC), BUT 1 - A HAD BEEN CONTROLLED BY GVN EVER SINCE CEASE- FIRE, AND MINH COULD NOT ABANDON ATTEMPT TO CLEAR IT, NOR FOR THAT MATTER COULD HE YIELD ANY GROUND TO COMMUNISTS ANYWHERE ELSE IN MR 3. ACCORDING TO ONE MR 3 SOURCE, OPERATION ALONG 1- A IS GOING WELL; ADVANCING ARVN HAVE MET NO RESISTANCE, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF HEAVY AIR AND ARTILLERY STRIKES. ANOTHER MR 3 SOURCE INDICATES, HOWEVER, THAT OPERATION HAS MADE LITTLE PROGRESS; ARTILLERY AND AIRSTRIKES HAVE FAILED TO DISLODGE 165 TH REGIMENT OF 7 TH NVA DIVISION FROM WELL ENTRENCHED POSITIONS, AND ROAD STILL INTERDICTED AT SOUTHERN END OF PHUOC HOA RUBBER PLANTATION ABOUT 5 KM SW OF PHU GIAO. GENERALLY, MR 3 HQ IS RELEASING LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OPERATION.

4. A HIGHLY RELIABLE MR 3 SOURCE TOLD US HE WAS PRESENT JUNE 12 WHEN PRESIDENT THIEU TELEGRAPHED PARIS INSTRUCTING GVN DELEGATE TO OBJECT TO PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR ANNOUNCING, SIGNING, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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BRINGING INTO EFFECT NEW JOINT COMMUNIQUE, AND TO RAISE THREE ISSUES SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED BY AP AS GVN' S PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS WITH REPORTED 14- POINT COMMUNIQUE.

5. COMMUNISTS IN TAY NINH CONTINUE TO PUSH PREPARATIONS FOR POLITICAL STRUGGLE WITH THE GVN. CLIPPING A PAGE FROM ROBIN HOOD, TAY NINH VC/ NVA CONTINUE TO STEAL DRAFT ANIMALS AND TRACTORS

FROM PROSPEROUS FARMERS LIVING IN GVN- CONTROLLED AREAS, AND OFFER SAME, ALONG WITH FARMING LAND, TO POORER FARMERS IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO SETTLE IN NORTHERN TAY NINH. RECENT REPORTS THRU VIETNAMESE CHANNELS INDICATE THAT COMMUNISTS HAVE COMPLETED WORK ON AIR FIELD IN THIEN NGON AND MARKET IN XA MAT. IN ADDITION, A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SAW MILL IN THIEN NGON IS REPORTEDLY KEPT BUSY DAY AND NIGHT SAWING WOOD TO BUILD HOUSES. SAME 30- ODD HOUSES AND OTHER PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE POPULATION, SUCH AS PLANTING OF MANIOC TREES IN THE XA MAT AREA, HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED. DESPITE INCREASED GVN EFFORTS TO PREVENT IT, THE VC/ NVA APPARENTLY ARE STILL ABLE TO RESUPPLY THEMSELVES BY BOAT ALONG THE VAM CO DONG RIVER AND BY VEHICLE ALONG ROADS CONNECTING NORTHERN TAY NINH WITH CAMBODIA. ALTHOUGH ONLY A FEW PEOPLE UNDER GVN CONTROL HAVE GONE OVER TO THE COMMUNISTS THUS FAR, GVN OFFICIALS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT COMMUNIST INDUCEMENTS MAY IN FUTURE HAVE SEDUCTIVE EFFECT ON POORER CITIZENS OF GVN - CONTROLLED TAY NINH.

6. TWO VIGNETTES FROM THE TROUBLED ICCS TEAM AT CU CHI MIGHT SERVE TO DESCRIBE THE INCREASING FRUSTRATIONS FACING SUCH TEAMS. A SIGN TACKED ON THE DOOR OF CANDEL RESIDENCE READS: " WHEN THE CAMP COMES UNDER INDIRECT FIRE, ICCS MEMBERS WILL PROCEED TO THE BUNKER IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THIS RESIDENCE -- KEEP SMILING*" AN INDONESIAN CAPTAIN, ASKED IF HE ENJOYED LIVING IN VIETNAM, REPLIED: " WHY NOT? IT' S ALL A BIG JOKE, ISN' T IT?" SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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